

## Fall is School-Hunting Season in San Francisco

By Rachel Norton

For San Franciscans fall can mean many things - a September-October warm spell, perhaps, or Potrero Hill History Night. But if you have school-age children, fall is school enrollment season.

Applying to private schools has always meant touring, interviewing, and agonizing over application forms. But San Franciscans are often surprised to learn that our public schools have an elaborate enrollment process too. And even though the next school year won't begin until August 2007, public school enrollment season is already in full swing.

San Francisco parents can request any school in the City, whether or not they live close-by. Because some schools attract more requests than there are seats, however, the San Francisco Unified School District must balance the competing demands of parent preference, diversity, and universal access when assigning students.

The courts have ruled that assigning students based on race is discriminatory, so the District uses a "Diversity Index" which assigns students based on a complicated mix of socioeconomic factors. If there are

more applicants than seats available at a particular school, applicants are scrutinized for the number of diversity "points" they add to that school

So how does the process work? Parents fill-out an applicationavailable after mid-November - and list up to seven school choices, ranked in order of preference. The application gathers information about the student's general socioeconomic profile, like the mother's educational background, and whether the family receives food stamps or lives in public housing. To participate in this year's Round One - during which the vast majority of public school seats will be filled - applications must be turned in by January 19, 2007. (Siblings and special education students must turn in their applications by mid-December; students applying to charter schools, Lowell High School, or School of the Arts follow separate application deadlines and procedures).

Applicants requesting the same school as their older siblings are assigned first. Then, the District calculates the number of open seats remaining at cach school. If there are

Continued on page 10



Yasmeen Lake with her hand-decorated Dia de los Muertos skull at the Potrero Hill Festival on October 14. See page 12 for more photos. Photo by Paula Eve Aspin,

## Helipad or No Helipad: That is Still the Question

By Robynne Boyd

Special to the Neighborhood Newswire

Neighborhoods surrounding San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) have debated for almost two decades whether a helipad should perch atop the City's number one trauma center. The controversy was re-sparked in 2003 after the San Francisco Health Commission approved a feasibility study that found that a helipad was necessary to address weaknesses in the City's emergency response system - specifically, geographic isolation and traffic congestion. The Health Commission directed the hospital to complete an environmental impact report for a proposed helipad, which is due out by the end of the year.

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants

and Businesses, East Mission Improvement Association, and Lower 24th Street Neighborhood Association are officially opposed to the helipad Concerns focus on helicopter noise and safety; potential adverse impacts on property values; the likelihood that out-of-area helipad patients will push out lower income patients from the surrounding community from receiving needed care; and distrust of SFGH's motivations and relationship with the surrounding communities.

"First of all, the hospital hasn't said what the purpose is for the helipad," said Keith Goldstein, president of the Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses. "It seems that it will be servicing people from out of town. I understand that the emergency Continued on page 7

## **New Buildings Planned** for Mission Bay

By Lisa Tehrani

is well underway - 1,224 of the planned 3,000 residential units have been built, with another 1,128 units currently under construction. Even more development is planned south of Mission Creek in the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Area.

A total of 3,090 housing units are slated for Mission Bay South, 28 percent of which are supposed to be affordable to moderate, low, and very low-income households. Most of the new housing will be located around Third and Fourth streets, north of the UCSF campus and south of Mission Creek. Retail is planned along Third and Fourth streets to provide the new neighborhood with essential services.

Up to six million square feet Development in the "Mission of office/life science/technology Bay North Redevelopment Area" commercial space will occupy Mission Bay, most of which will be in the south area. A 500-room hotel on Third Street and almost 50 acres of public open space are included in the plans. Many of the planned parks will run along Mission Creek and the Bay. A 500-student public school and fire and police stations will also be added, but when these facilities will be constructed is currently unknown, according to Amy Neches, Senior Project Manager for the Mission Bay Redevelopment Area.

The blue glass building under construction at the corner of 16th and Owens streets will have 153,000 square feet of science and office lab space, and include ground floor retail

Continued on page 8

INSIDE

Shipyard Fund

5

School News

Decompression

10

Holistic Pet Care 14

PMS Eats

Police Blotter

## ublisher's View: Vote

By Steven J. Moss -

Although I became eligible to vote in 1978 - the year that Proposition 13 changed California government forever - the 1980 election was the first one in which I actively participated. Jimmy Carter, dressed in a cardigan sweater, was running against Ronald Reagan, who was suited-up in cowboy attire. In retrospect the outcome was not surprising. Reagan expressed a bright and shiny optimism about America's place in the world, while Carter worried about our nation's "malaise." That election, and the subsequent elevation of the U.S. to world sheriff, almost certainly contributed to the current Administration's ability to prosecute our disastrous war in Iraq two decades later.

At the time I found Carter annoying, and Reagan frightening. During the Republican primaries I fell in love with John B. Anderson, a preachy, straight-talking congressman from Illinois. Anderson lost, but in the primaries and in his independent presidential run, I was with him all the way. Thus began my personal relationship with politics. I learned that being really passionate about a candidate doesn't necessarily get them elected, though expending all that passion through campaigning can be a great way to meet women.

In ensuing elections I almost always voted for the blunt but honest loser. I recognize now that most of the time I was trying to elect a more polished version of my father, who lost each of his five Palo Alto city council races. Voting became my own personal "noble lie" - something I did not because I thought I could affect the outcome, but out of a religious belief in democracy.

This year we're faced with the usual cast of mostly second rate politicians and complicated propositions. The election is taking place within a national political context that's, frankly, abominable, in an era in which citizens are deeply reliant on state and local governments to help us create the future we want, or at least can accept.

In the past the View has offered specific voting recommendations, developed by staff members and volunteers over Goat Hill pizza. We may do so again in the future, but for now we have our hands full just getting the paper out. Like many San Franciscans, I barely have

time to shave in the morning, much less study candidate records and ballot initiative texts. I'll choose my candidates based on a few overarching principles.

First, I'll vote against every Republican Party candidate. California's Republicans may be different from their colleagues elsewhere, but they still belong to a gay-bashing, war-mongering, cnvironment-destroying gang of quasi-corporate thicves. I'm not voting for members of that club.

Second, I'll vote with my trustworthy friends. I'm not intimately familiar with many of the school board candidates, but friends who're knowledgeable about education have suggested that Omar Khalif and Hydra Mendoza would make good board members. Sophie Maxwell does her very best to represent District I0 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. And in District 6, I'd vote for Chris Daly. He may be a "loud-mouthed idiot," but at least he "gets it done."

As far as the propositions go, you're on your own, with one exception. Unless you want the government regulating what kind of conversations you're supposed to have with your children, vote "no" on Proposition 85. Likewise, as you peruse the various good works in which we could invest money, note that a billion here and a billion there adds up. Whatever you do, don't vote for all the bond initiatives - our kids can't afford it. And keep in mind that bonds are supposed to pay for capital investments - services that will be around for a decade or more - not operating costs. Some of the state's most profound public policy changes have been made by initiative. We need to take these potential bad boys seriously.

A quarter century after he received six million votes running as an independent presidential candidate, John Anderson remains on the lecture circuit. At a speech at the National Press Club he bemoaned the state of American democracy, which he asserted "is not good, and it is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Years of non-competitive elections that leave most Americans choice-less and voice-less are driving them away from participation." He's probably right. Perhaps the only remedy for this ailment is for you to vote.

#### Got News?

Send your press release to the Potrero View, 2325 Third Street, Suite 344, San Francisco, California 94107. Better yet, email editor@potreroview.net. Please include a telephone number. Thanks!

## **Editorial Commentaries**

#### **Proposition A Is an Important Step** Towards a Safe, Healthy School for **Every Child**

By Lorraine Woodruff-Long

On election day, voters will make a crucial decision that will effect children enrolled in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) for many years to come. A "Yes" vote on Proposition A will trigger the issuance of a \$450 million bond to pay for desperately needed upgrades at 62 San Francisco schools.

San Francisco's schools are in serious need of capital investments to improve seismic and fire safety, remove health hazards and modernize amenities. On top of that, in 2004 the District was ordered by the courts to improve access for people with disabilities. Added together, it could cost as much as \$1.5 billion to fix the City's schools.

Some of that money -\$295 million provided by a similar bond passed in 2003 – has already been spent on upgrades at 30 schools, including Leonard Flynn and Alvarado. By all accounts, the District's handling of the 2003 bond has been a model of fiscal responsibility, with the work completed on-time and on-budget.

Now we need to finish the job, and soon. If Proposition A passes this month, SFUSD will be eligible to request up to \$30 million in state matching funds to help make improvements. Defeat would mean that the District would be unable to meet the court's deadline for completing the disability access work, and risk losing control of its budget. The court could order that classroom operating funds be diverted to complete the needed work, or it could raise money by directing school closures without community input. A delay would also mean escalating costs – an additional \$50 million if the work is postponed just one year. And, of course, a defeat would mean that San Francisco students would spend more time in crumbling and possibly unsafe school buildings.

Initially skeptical of issuing another school facilities bond so soon after the last one, Mayor Newsom and other city leaders are now strongly in support of Proposition A. After meeting with district officials and scrutinizing the handling of the earlier bond, financier Warren Hellman declared that he, too, was "extremely convinced" of the bond's necessity. For a complete endorsement list, including seven members of the Board of Supervisors, unions and community groups, visit www.rebuildSFschools.com

Proposition A's \$450 million will result in real improvements for students throughout San Francisco. Among those scheduled for upgrades are I3 child development centers serving mostly lowincome preschoolers, 27 elementary schools - including Buena Vista, Grattan, Fairmount and Sanchez - and 15 middle and high schools, including Aptos and Downtown (ISA). These and other sites will not only receive safety and access improvements, but also modernizations such as new bathrooms, new lighting, and new schoolyard spaces designed for gardens or other greenery.

Bond expenditures, which are estimated to cost homeowners an average of \$22 for every \$100,000 of assessed value, will be audited by the state every year and tightly monitored by the Citizen's Bond Overview Committee, an appointed group mandated by state law

Everyone wants to keep children and families in San Francisco Accessible, high-quality schools are a critical component in the drive to retain existing families and attract new ones. All San Francisco students deserve high-quality, universally accessible environments in which to learn - a Yes vote on Proposition A will help make that a reality.

Lorraine Woodruff-Long is the Executive Director of Parents for Public Schools-San Francisco.



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# Editorial Commentaries (continued)

#### **Vote Yes on Proposition 89**

By Joni Eisen

Under our present election system, the best-funded candidates win 95 percent of the time. Candidates' bigmoney campaign donors then expect a return on their investment: tax breaks, weakened regulations, juicy contracts

Proposition 89 will stop this legalized corruption, taking government back from powerful special interests. The proposition imposes strict new contribution limits on candidates, parties, PACs and other committees that apply equally to unions, corporations and individuals. It bans contributions outright from lobbyists and those seeking business with the state, and it limits contributions to ballot measures from corporate treasuries to \$10,000. It has tough enforcement and disclosure requirements.

Proposition 89 also offers qualifying candidates a voluntary system of "Clean Money" – full public campaign financing, modeled after the post-2000 success of Arizona and Maine. Popular with voters and politicians alike, Clean Money has brought increased voter confidence and turnout, with more women

and minorities running and winning in the two states. Proposition 89 will level the playing field in California, making elections about ideas, not money.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to change the way California government operates. Proposition 89 is scary to those whose grip on power depends on their ability to throw money around: big oil, the insurance industry, pharmaceuticals, HMOs, big developers – anyone who likes using our current system to buy influence with legislators. Enacting Proposition 89 could start a wave of clean government across the country, even reaching Washington, DC.

Imagine government that addresses voters' concerns, allowing regular people's voices to be heard in the process. Candidates running on the strength of their ideas, not the size of their campaign chests.

Legislators, freed of incessant fundraising demands and accountable only to their constituents and their consciences, with the time and inclination to legislate. Vote yes on Proposition 89. See www.89now.org for more information and a list of endorsers.

#### **Vote No on Proposition F**

By Mark Klaiman

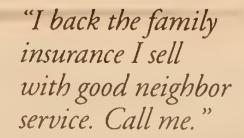
Small business owners know that the most important element in their success is the quality of their employees. Small business owners also know that to keep great people you need a great compensation package. But what makes a great package differs from business to business and, more importantly, from employee to employee. Small businesses think long and hard to create the combination of wages, healthcare coverage, retirement benefits and paid time-off that makes sense for their teams. Sadly, a few advocates in San Francisco think they know what's best for everyone.

At the last moment – and with all most no discussion - Proposition F was placed on this November's ballot. Backroom deals are usually blamed on big business interests; Proposition F's backers demonstrate that no single ideology has a monopoly on such deals. In an era of expansive public policy debates, the proposition's backers have demonstrated a disdain for the need to include the public in discussions about how best to compensate workers. San Franciscans should know better: including others, even those who disagree with you, when formulating policy results in the best outcomes.

Proposition F is sloppy. As written, everyone who employs anyone for any number of hours in San Francisco would need to provide paid sick leave, including families who hire nannies, dog walkers and

temporary workers. Proposition F is expensive. Businesses with more than ten employees would be required to provide at least nine days of paid sick leave a year: that's the equivalent of a four percent pay raise for those businesses that don't currently provide such a benefit. Businesses with less than 10 employees would have to provide five days. Proposition F also allows sick leave to be used if the employee or their "designee" is ill. Imagine the nightmare of trying to keep a business fully staffed when employees can be out with not just their own colds, but those of their friends. There are individuals and families with serious medical needs, but this problem has already been substantially addressed by the state's paid Family and Medical Leave Act.

San Franciscans are micromanaging small businesses from the ballot box. We're all already worried about cost increases in the City, with upward pressure caused by higher land and energy prices, not to mention such public policies as the minimum wage without tip credit, and the payroll and personal property taxes. Increased costs due to recent new health care requirements have not even been felt, and we're voting to impose another expense on San Francisco businesses. We shouldn't be surprised nor complain when the costs of these mandates are reflected in higher prices for just about everything





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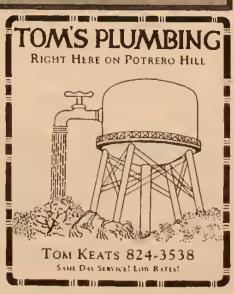
The View's now on the World Wide Web

Check us out at www.potreroview.net

And look for our new monthly feature: photographs of local events, including this year's Halloween parade!

## **Corrections**

Photos in the October 2006 Potrero View issue credited to Pamela Aspin and Paula Aspin should have been credited to Paula Eve Aspin.





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## First Phase of UCSF Mission Bay Campus Construction Complete

By Julie Mitchell

It's impossible to live in the neighborhood and miss the continuing expansion of the University of California, San Francisco's (UCSF) Mission Bay complex. UCSF Mission Bay's 43-acre life sciences campus houses research facilities focusing on human genetics, development biology, molecular and cell biology, developmental neuroscience, and structural and chemical biology. In addition, one housing complex has been completed, another is planned, and the site has approximately 2.2 acres set aside for use as a San Francisco Unified School District public school campus.

The project broke ground in October 1999, and will be developed in phases over the next 15 years, with an expected 20 buildings when fully constructed. In early 2003, UCSF faculty, scientists, students, and staff began moving into the first building, Genentech Hall. Almost 1,700 people now teach, study, work, or live at Mission Bay, a population that will swell to 9,100 people within the next 10 years.

Of the several buildings that are completed, the Mission Bay Community Center is one of the most versatile and striking, both in terms of architecture and use. Designed by award-winning Mexican architects Ricardo and Victor Legorreta, the four-story Center houses the fully equipped Bakar Fitness and Recreation Center; a 600-person assembly room; banquet and conference rooms; a pub and a medical research library, all of which are open to the public. The Center's interior is painted with vibrant pinks, blues, and purples, with sculpture throughout, natural light and plenty of open space.

The Community Center faces Koret Quad, 3.2 acres of landscaped, grassy open space designed as an informal gathering place for the public as well as campus personnel. According to Barbara French, UCSF's Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations, concerts and other events will be held on the quad.

In May 2006, the Mission Bay Childcare Center opened with space for 86 children between the ages of three months to five years. The Childcare Center is operated by Marin Day Schools, which has several other locations in Marin and San Francisco. While the Childcare Center mainly serves the UCSF community, if slots are available it will accept other families. See www.cas.ucsf.edu/childcarecenters.

The Mission Bay Housing complex opened last August with 431 units for 750 residents — UCSF students, post-doctoral scholars, visiting faculty and their families. The housing complex includes four

linked buildings framing an open courtyard, with units that range from studios to four-bedroom apartments. According to MUNI, light rail service directly to the housing complex will be available in early-2007; USCF shuttle busses already run to and from all UCSF campuses, including Mt. Zion and Parnassus to Mission Bay. Additional, affordable housing for staff is being planned just north of the Mission Bay campus.

Genentech Hall is designed as a model for interactive rescarch focusing on structural and chemical biology and molecular cell and developmental biology. The fivestory structure – with its 100-foot exterior wall of aquamarine blue glass reflecting the travertine marble imported from Italy - features clusters of shared equipment and lab space known as "neighborhoods." This open lab environment, as well as a spacious atrium, café, bookstore, and outdoor amphitheater, allows for easy collaboration and camaraderie among the 900 to 1,000 scientists and support staff.

Byers Hall, which connects to Genentech Hall and makes use of the same stonework and glass, houses the California Institute for Quantitative Biomedical Research (known as QB3), a partnership between UCSF, UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz. The Institute focuses on biomedical research to advance human health for the diagnosis and treatment of disease by integrating physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences.

Over the next decade, Mission Bay will add more research facilities, retail services — including a restaurant, convenience store, and bank. A children's hospital, with 289 beds for mothers, children, and cancer patients, will be constructed on recently acquired land south of 16th Street.

The hospital's encroachment into areas beyond the original footprint of the Mission Bay campus, among other land purchases, has made some Potrero Hill and Dogpatch residents uneasy. Susan Eslick, President of the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association and a member of UCSF's Citizens Advisory Group, says, "On the face of it, people in the neighborhood don't have a problem with Mission Bay, but the issue is, UCSF continues to expand, purchasing more and more buildings that aren't part of the original campus plans."

Eslick sites the university's recent purchase of a building at Minnesota and 19th streets that she believes will ultimately support 200 UCSF employees. "There's no extra parking," she says, "and UCSF is exempt from many of the City's planning and transit codes. That,

Continued on page 20

#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

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> Closed Sunday and Monday Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch Librarian

#### BRANCH RENOVATION UPDATE

Our branch library is scheduled to close for construction in Spring 2007 and reopen in early 2009. This renovation project has been made possible by a bond measure passed in November 2000 to upgrade the City's branch library system. While the bond pays for a significant portion of the costs, it does not pay for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library will raise money from private donations to pay for these costs. Please call Tina Tom at (415) 626-7512, ext. 106 to help with the Friends campaign in the Potrero Hill neighborhood.

#### ONE CITY ONE BOOK: SAN FRANCISCO READS

The citywide book club winds down with two not to be missed final events! Luis Urrea, author of The Hummingbird's Daughter and The Devil's Highway, is a fascinating speaker. You can celebrate Day of the Dead with him on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Books Inc. in Opera Plaza, 601 Van Ness Avenue, (415) 776-1111. Meet the author, sample Mexican treats and engage him in discussion after he reads passages from The Hummingbird's Daughter. If you can't attend this event, Luis will read and sign his book on Saturday, November 4, 3-5 p.m. at Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett Street at the corner of 24th and Bartlett streets. This program will be conducted in Spanish, and books will be available in English and Spanish. Don't miss this talented author, who is not only working on a sequel to The Hummingbird's Daughter, but also an epic film! Luis Urrea's books are readily available, so please stop by the library for a brilliant read.

#### PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

The Library is hosting a pilot program called "Passport to Teen Programs," which will promote teen programs offered at libraries throughout the City. The program began on October 16 and will continue through May 31, 2007. In this program, teens, aged 13-18, will receive a "passport" at a participating branch (Potrero, Anza, Eureka Valley, Presidio, and Richmond). They will carry the passport with them to any of our monthly programs and at each program they will receive a passport stamp. They must attend eight programs at five different library locations to win exciting prizes! Visit www.sfpl.org/teens for a listing of monthly programs. Need more info? Ask a librarian! All programs at the library are free!

#### PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN NOVEMBER

Special program this month: Musician Todd Denman will perform Thursday, November 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Denman is a world renowned master of the uilleann pipes, which date back to the 18th century from Ireland and England. Denman will play the wooden pipes, and children can dance along with the music. Children are encouraged to bring their own musical instruments so that they can play with him in an orchestral arrangement. For children of all ages. This program is made possible by funding from the Friends of the Library.

Unless otherwise notified, our regularly scheduled Children's programs will resume as follows:

- \* Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, November 2, 9, and 30, at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age three.
- \* Evening storytime on Tuesdays, November 7, 21, and 28, at 7 p.m. For ages three to seven years old.
- \* Evening films on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m.: "Miss Nelson is Back," "Harold and the Purple Crayon," and "One Was Johnny." For ages three and older.

Please note: All library programs are free. Mecting room is not accessible by elevator. Groups, please call in advance for reservations.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 23RD & 24TH FOR THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY.

HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!! 😞

# Shipyard Legacy Fund Could Lose \$12 Million

By John Gallaghe

The Hunters Point Shipyard is being transformed from a radioactive and toxic wasteland into a residential community, with more than 1,600 new homes and 300,000 square feet of commercial and retail space expected to be constructed on 63 acres. One-third of the homes are slated to be affordable. Lennar Homes, a national homebuilder, in collaboration with the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA), is developing the housing.

Three-fifths of the net proceeds from home sales will be dedicated to the Shipyard Legacy Fund to be reinvested in the Bayview-Hunters Point community. The Legacy Fund was originally estimated to reach \$30 million when the project got underway in 2003, but that figure has recently been dramatically reduced because of "market conditions." The Fund is now expected to collect "between \$18 to \$20 million," according to Nicole Franklin, a SFRA project manager. "Because the market has shifted so drastically on construction costs and how much we can actually sell these lots for, and because we are in a joint venture between the developer and the redevelopment agency, the amount of our net land proceeds decreased," said Franklin.

According to the SFRA, the Legacy Fund is an unprecedented concession to the local community. "We pledged our net land proceeds to the community to provide additional community benefits," said Franklin. The Redevelopment Agency Commission has final authority over the use of the monies, but has charged the Hunters Point Shipyard Citizen's Advisory Committee, composed of Mayor-appointed community activists, local residents, and business owners, to decide how the Fund can best be used. SFRA retained Urban Strategies Council, an Oakland-based non-profit, "to develop an effective community process and structure by which recommendations will be made to the Commission."

Bayview-Hunters Point residents have higher hospitalization rates than anyother San Francisco neighborhood, according to a recent San Francisco Public Health Department report. The area also suffers from the City's highest incidences of violence and poverty. In this context, the Fund could play a much-needed role in supporting youth, elderly, economic and job creation programs. But the precipitous drop in the Fund's expected value casts doubt on its ability to significantly address many of Bayview-Hunters Point's challenges.



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Potrero Hill Neighborhood House 953 DeHaro Street • San Francisco, CA 94107 415-826-8080 Edward Hatter, Executive Director

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving those most in need with an emphasis on youth and education.

The Nabe is wheelchair accessible.

All services and activities are free.

## New Kids on the Block & Other Family News

Minnesota Street in Potrero Hill's Dogpatch neighborhood, builder of towers; driver of trains, trucks, and all things well-wheeled; frequent patron of Goat Hill Pizza, Farley's Cafe, Christopher's Books and Moshi Moshi, turns a rambunctious three years old on November 7.

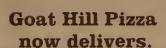
Happy birthday to Olivia Moss, who turns five on November 7! Olivia happily makes the trip each weekday from her house on Potrero Hill to Grattan Elementary School.

Master Liam Hoffmann, of If you'd like to see your child's birth, birthday, adoption, graduation, christening, bat/bar mitzvah, athletic win, academic honor, or other announcement listed here, please email: melissa@gracecreative.net.

> Deadline: by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

> Please include all pertinent information such as name, date, event, and anything else you'd like

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## Helipad at SFGH

Continued from page 1

room and trauma unit are already full, and that by bringing in highpaying patients from the suburbs, lower income San Francisco residents will be pushed out of the emergency room."

Christine Wachsmuth, project manager for the helipad project, says the emergency room and trauma center are two separate entities. The trauma center is comprised of the totality of services provided to critically injured patients, with the emergency room being just one component of these. While it's true that patients are sometimes diverted from the emergency room, trauma patients are never diverted, said Wachsmuth.

Wachsmuth says that the helipad will serve trauma patients, as well as become an important component of a regional trauma support network. If approved, according to Wachsmuth, the helipad would be used for approximately 693 flights annually, or less than two a day. Of these, 53 patients would be rescued directly from a trauma scene; 400 would be transferred from lower-level trauma centers or community hospitals to SFGH due to complicated injuries; six would be children under the age of five that need to be stabilized before being flown to dedicated children's trauma centers; and the remaining 240 patients would be those usually flown into SFO and then driven by ambulance to the University of California, San Francisco's hospital for maternal child service, Davies Hospital for limb-re-implantation or St. Francis Hospital for burn treatment.

With an anticipated 453 additional patients each year, equaling approximately one to two extra patients per day, SFGH doesn't foresee any crowding problems, said Wachsmuth. Wachsmuth also emphasized the helipad's value during disasters, especially since the City is surrounded by water on three sides, relies heavily on bridges for access, and is in a high-risk seismic

"After the Katrina debacle, you must look at how you can best serve the people who live in your region – there are only three level one trauma centers: Santa Clara, Stanford, SFGH." Wachsmuth pointed out that every one of the 50 most populated cities in the U.S., ranging from New York City to Arlington, Virginia, has at least one medical helipad, except San Francisco.

Tony Kelly, president of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, doesn't accept the disaster rationale. "I can speak specifically to the lack of straight talk from the hospital...[which] has poisoned their relationship with the neighborhood." Kelly continued, "I would love to have a serious conversation with the hospital about how the neighborhood can better serve their operations. But if the helipad is about improving their revenue stream, they need to say so.

Only then can we have an honest discussion about it, instead of talking about the issue as if it's only about addressing emergencies."

Wachsmuth readily acknowledges that people have asked whether the hospital is building the helipad just to make money. "We don't ask people whether they have the money for the flight to take the flight – I think it's illegal. We take everyone who requires level one trauma care," said Wachsmuth. "No, we're not doing this just to make money, but if money can be made and can be billed for we'll bill for those services."

While the cost of helicopter flights will fall to the hospital, insurance companies, and/or patients, the cost of building the helipad, an estimated \$2.5 million, will be paid by the SFGH Foundation, a non-profit formed 15 years ago.

Community feelings are strong enough on the issue that a group called "Stop the Helipad" has formed to disseminate information through its website. Rebecca Sawyer, a Stop the Helipad member, stresses that building the helipad "is not about saving lives." She said the project's real purpose is detailed in the 2003 Helipad Feasibility Study, which notes,"[A]n influx of air transport patients from the broader suburban and rural regions of Northern California...will contribute to a beneficial payer mix at the hospital."

Not all residents who would be impacted by the helipad are opposed to its construction. One longtime Potrero Hill resident who prefers to remain anonymous said, "When looking at the issue from the urban planning perspective, in dense urban areas there are necessities for disaster preparedness, and the helipad seems like an important thing." The resident insisted that one way to ensure that the helipad was used solely to save lives was to limit and define the helipad's terms of use. "I don't look forward to a helicopter flying over my head, but if it's a matter of saving a life it's not a question."

Not surprisingly, noise is the only aspect of the helipad issue that seems to have consensus. All agree that helicopters are loud, disruptive, and an assault to personal lifestyle. Yet agreement ends when people discuss whether the project represents a worthwhile sacrifice.

If the helipad were to be approved, the state Emergency Medical Service Agency would be responsible for establishing how it would be used. The San Francisco Planning Department can also require SFGH to undertake specific mitigations to operate the helipad.

The main reason the helipad should be built is "to allow the City and County of San Francisco to participate in a larger community response system for emergency care," said Dr. Robert Mackersie, SFGH's Head of Trauma Services. "Every other benefit derives from that, including those to patients, and the hospital."

## **View on Schools**

By Melissa Glorieux

Daniel Webster Elementary School Moraima Machado, Principal Grades: K-5 Type: public Enrollment: 224 465 Missouri St. 94107 (415) 695-5787

Daniel Webster Elementary School has a new principal: Ms. Moraima Machado. Formerly a special education teacher, this is Machado's first stint as principal. Originally from Venezuela, Machado began teaching in 1990, and has taught in San Francisco since 1997.

On November 20, members of the San Francisco Opera will teach the school's fifth graders about opera. The students, with teacher Ron Russo, will put these lessons to use with a performance, date to be determined.

Thursday, November 16, is "Math Family Night." Parents of students in every grade are encouraged to attend and hear from teachers about what's going on in the classroom, and how best to help them at home. The event runs from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; refreshments will be provided.

The first Friday of each month at 8 a.m. is "Family as Readers" time. Parents who attend will learn how to work with their child on reading at home.

#### International Studies Academy High School

Nancy Evangelho, Principal Matt Livingston, Assistant Principal Grades: 9-12 Type: public alternative Enrollment: 420 655 De Haro Street, 94107 (415) 695-5866

Previously at 693 Vermont Street, International Studies Academy High School (ISA) is now located at the former Enola Maxwell Middle School of the Arts building. The site has a number of features that weren't available at the previous location, including a regulation-size gymnasium for 'home' games, locker rooms for boys and girls, enough school lockers for every student, many student bathrooms, and a large library and common space for students and teachers, including an after-school program space known as the Cobra Rec Center. The Rec Center is sponsored by a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and supported by Urban Services YMCA.

ISA welcomes Mr. Matt Livingston as its new assistant principal and Mr. Brian Cohen as its new instructional reform facilitator (the master teacher who helps guide other teachers). Additionally, a new department has been added to the school: the Wellness Center, coordinated by Briana Visser.

New school initiatives include athletic director Verna Castro's program to create a campus health and workout center; peer resource teacher Lauren Moret's work with a U.C. Berkeley's research team to encourage healthy food consumption; and the school newspaper's collaboration with San Francisco State University's Center for the Integration and Improvement of Journalism. Other projects include a new Choir Club sponsored by onsite safety and support member, Mr. Swiff, and the Latino Club, sponsored by the school's new 9th and 10th grade counselor, Ms. Kalani Vasquez.

At press time, ISA was planning to hold its first dance in the school's gymnasium on Friday, October 27. Neighborhood residents interested in working as chaperones at future dances should contact Ms. Sandra Estrada, the parent liaison, at (415) 695-5866.

As part of our expanding children and families coverage each month the View will highlight selected schools from around the neighborhood. Let us know about any school-related events you'd like covered.

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# New Buildings Planned for Mission Bay

Continued from page

meant to serve building occupants. Alexandria Real Estate Equities, a biotechnology facility company that leases lab and office space to startups and biotechnology firms, is developing the site. Alexandria is also planning to develop all of the remaining land between Owens and Interstate 280, adjacent to 16th Street, as well as other parcels to the east and southeast of the UCSF campus, according to Neches. The company has entitlements to develop a total of 2.5 million square feet of office and lab space.

Two more buildings between Owens and Interstate 280 are undergoing planning review, according to notices posted on a fence near the old Mission Bay golf driving range. The first, at 1600 Owens, is proposed as a 10 story 245,500 square feet building located next to the Gladstone Institute on the corner of Owens and C streets.

The second building, located at 1500 Owens, is proposed to be a six story building with 160,600 square feet. Both Owen's Street addresses will serve as office buildings with lab space for biotechnology uses and ground floor retail. Many of the new Mission Bay buildings are planned to be 90 feet tall, such as the Gladstone Institute, but a few 160 foot towers are planned for the area, including the 1600 Owens building.

Studios Architecture designed the 1600 Owens building, along with the already-constructed buildings at First and Howard streets. It's a modern structure with a unique design, according to the Planning Department's Craig Nikitas. The upper levels consist of a greenishtint glass cylinder that rises out of the rectangular lower base. Nikitas explained that the huilding's design flourishes and linear extension makes it seem "sculptural and volumetric." The building's lower façade will be made of metallic green materials and several terra cotta accents are intended to compliment the design of the neighboring Mission Bay Community Center.

According to Neches, the Redevelopment Area's Citizens Advisory Committee is pleased with the building's design, as are Redevelopment Agency planners. Kelley Kahn of the Project Management Division thinks that the building "is an urbane and attractive modern design that will help to create a distinct sense of place in Mission Bay." She adds, "The project includes a large new park at the corner of Owens and C street, which will be a terrific amenity."

SMWM designed the 1500 Owens Street building as a u-shaped structure that includes reflective glass for part of its façade. Another portion of the façade will be covered in two terra cotta hues of pre-cast concrete.

Both buildings are subject to the

Redevelopment Area's "Design for Development" standards, including controls for height, length and bulk, setbacks, sunlight and open space. The Planning Commission is charged with approving the office space allocation in the area and provided comments on the design at its October 26th meeting. The Redevelopment Commission will review the buildings in their entirety on November 7. In addition to the two proposed buildings, two parking structures and two additional buildings are planned between Owens Street and Interstate 280 on the same block, all to be developed by Alexandria.

All new development in the area was included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Redevelopment Plan. However, Rod Minott, who lives on Mariposa Street, thinks the ElR doesn't consider the adverse noise impacts the tall buildings adjacent to Interstate 280 will create. According to Minott, "The SF Redevelopment Agency has failed to study in its EIR the impact of noise magnification generated by huge buildings set adjacent to freeway auto traffic." Minott believes that walling-off the eastern side of Interstate 280 will act to dramatically increase traffic noise due to the echo effect created by the large buildings. "This noise is detrimental to the quality of life of nearby homeowners and residents on Potrero Hill," he said. The Planning Department's Nikitas disagrees, saying he doesn't think that the buildings will create

Minott is also concerned about the tower's impact on views. According to Minott, a 160 foot building is an "outrageous height, which will set a new and dangerous precedent for building heights." Minott is concerned about ruining Potrero Hill's famed views and degrading the neighborhood's quality of life, "This would be yet another step in transforming Mission Bay and lower Potrero into a monolithic and sterile office park where a sense of light, open space, community, and a natural pleasing connection to the rest of the city is destroyed."

The Redevelopment Plan permits building heights up to 160 feet, and Mission Bay design guidelines allow 40 percent of the buildings along Interstate 280 to be taller than the freeway.

Based on approved preliminary plans, buildings adjacent to Interstate 280 are not going to be that tall, according to Kahn. The freeway is 45 feet tall, with the two closest buildings planned at 34 and 39 feet respectively. The parking garage planned behind the Gladstone Institute will be 68 feet tall and setback about 20 feet from the freeway. The 1600 Owens site will be setback 60 feet from the freeway, with a 90 foot height on the portion closest to the freeway.

Nikitas doesn't expect much neighborhood opposition to the



The proposed 1600 Owens building seen from I-280. Rendering courtesy of Studios Architecture.

projects because those following the development "understand the land use intent of the area," he explained. Tony Kelly, President of the Potrero Boosters Association, stated that the Boosters don't have much of a say in what's developed in Mission Bay since the plan was set forth years ago. While the Boosters have objected to other Mission Bay developments in

the past, particularly construction of the UCSF Hospital, the group has not had much success in stopping them.

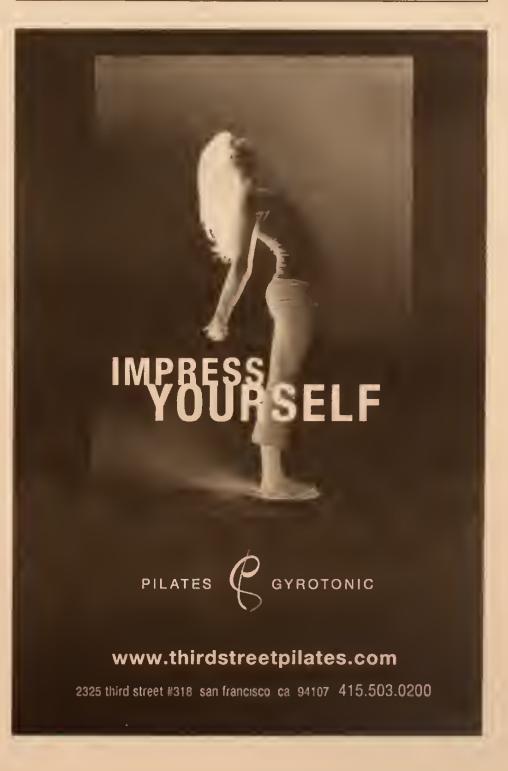
More information about the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan can be found on the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency's website: http://www.sfgov.org/site/sfra\_page.asp?id=559.

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**NOVEMBER 2006** 

Continued from page 5

The Horizontal Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA), signed in late-2003, established the terms between the SFRA and Lennar for the first development phase. Lennar's proposal to amend the agreement was accepted by the SFRA in October after months of negotiations. The changes will "eliminate rental units...and convert the entitlements to ownership units rather than rental units," according to Scott Madison, Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Committee. The changes could reduce the Fund's future receipts by 40 percent.

Rising material costs and an expected reduction in profits were part of the reason that Lennar proposed the amendments. In addition, a part of the Shipyard that was to be included in the first development phase cannot yet be accessed, pending completion of the Navy's \$350 million toxic clean-up efforts. The reduction in development scope has in turn reduced expected profits.

"How come so many smart people can be so stupid?" said Madison about the unexpected drop in revenues, but added "Was there deception involved? I don't think so."

The SFRA denies that it has been lax in pushing for a firm deal with Lennar. "We've required additional analysis by our independent financial consultant....We've required an independent appraisal of the potential land value. We also recognize that when the DDA was signed with Lennar...market conditions were really very different to what they are today," said Joanne Sakai, SFRA's

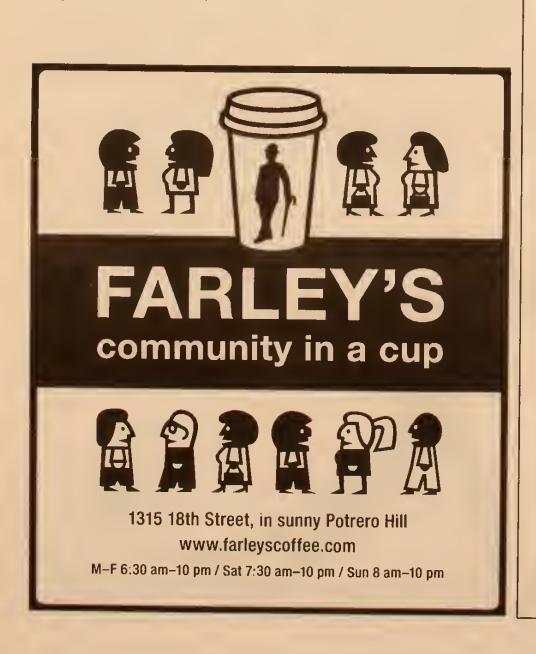
Executive Director for Community and Economic Development. "If the economy gets better by the time they are selling these lots...we'll all do better."

"Lennar is not getting paid back for all of its costs of doing the work, because we do believe that there were some things that should be its own costs....Sometimes there are inefficiencies and we have not given them a free ride on that," said Sakai.

Madison has mixed feelings about the DDA amendments. "I can only go on the basis of what I am told by the redevelopment agency.... I kind of have to take their word for it." However, he added "in the big picture it certainly would not be the first time that a large development has proceeded on the basis of promises that later had to be dramatically revised downwards with respect to the benefits of the community."

The City is proposing to power the new development with a combination of hydroelectricity from Hetch-Hetchy and on-site photovoltaic systems. However, Lennar is expected to solicit bids from both Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission before choosing an electricity supplier.

The third and final Shipyard Legacy Community Workshop will be held Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Bayview Opera House, 4705 Third Street. Additional information can be found at www.urbanstrategies.org/slfp or by e.mailing sarahp@urbanstrategies.org





Continuation High School sponsors a meeting with Principal Richard A. Maggi the first Friday of each month at the school. For information contact Babette Drefke, (415) 282.5919. Next meeting: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, on Vermont St. between 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> streets in Room One, from 10 to 11 am.

**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is Tuesday, **December** 12<sup>th</sup>, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20<sup>th</sup> Street from 7-9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at (415) 341-8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: November 28th, 7 p.m.

Potrero Hill Association of Mcrchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18<sup>th</sup> streets. Visit www.potrerohillbiz.com or call (415) 341-8949. Next meeting: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

Potrero Hill Garden Cluh usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call (415) 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: November 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call (415) 819-4900. Next meeting: November 21<sup>st</sup>. Next Volunteer Day: November 18<sup>th</sup>.





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## Fall is School-Hunting Season in San Francisco

Continued from page 1

fewer requests than seats at a school, the spaces are filled by applicants who listed that school as their first

Things get more complicated if there are more requests than spaces, however. The District's computer scans the pool of applicants requesting a particular school and assigns those whose profiles are most different from the "typical" student already attending that school. Applicants who live near a school get a slight edge. Officials stress that there is no ideal profile. The goal is to create classrooms with diverse student profiles.

There's probably no issue more controversial among San Francisco parents than the student assignment process. Many parents feel it's unnecessarily complex, and that it discriminates against people living near high-demand schools by limiting their access. Others like the ability to evaluate and choose from a wide array of school programs. And, in fact, most parents don't list the school closest to them as their first choice. Last year almost 80 percent of incoming kindergarteners preferred a school outside their neighborhood or a charter school.

The Board of Education is working to over-haul the student assignment process, but changes are unlikely to happen for at least another year. In the meantime, advocates say the best strategy to finding a school you like for your child is to tour many campuses, and not just the ones with name recognition. Parents should list a mix of high demand and socalled "hidden gem" schools to avoid getting assigned to a school they didn't request. The key, advocates say, is to be open-minded about the qualities of a great school, and to rely on your personal, in-depth observations rather than word-ofmouth or "drive-by" evaluations.

Several resources are available to help parents connect with schools. The District will hold an enrollment fair attended by representatives from every public school on November 18.

This annual event attracts thousands of parents, who can pick-up literature and talk to people from the schools that interest them. Parents for Public Schools (PPS) holds informational events and maintains a list of parents at more than 90 schools who're happy to share information with prospective families. PPS has also begun training "enrollment coaches," parents who fan-out to preschools and help others navigate the process.

Choosing a public school can be a stressful process, but the majority of parents end up with a school they love. Parents should take heart from the experiences of families who submitted an application for the 2006-07 school year: 85 percent received a school of their choice, and 62 percent received their first choice.

#### Resources for Parents

#### **Great Schools**

http://www.greatschools.net/ Find a treasure trove of statistical data on San Francisco public schools, including test scores and school demographics.

#### Parents for Public Schools

www.ppssf.org (415) 468-7077; info@ppssf.org The enrollment section is a great starting

point for any parent just learning about the process. Ask to be connected to ambassadors for schools you're considering.

#### Potrero Hill Parents Association

phpa-all@yahoogroups.com Active listsery of Potrero parents who're always ready to dispense advice.

#### **SFUSD**

www.sfusd.edu

Click on "school enrollment" for official information on the enrollment process. Application forms will be available for downloading after mid-November. Parents can also reach the Educational Placement Center by calling (415) 241-6085 or 555 Franklin St., Room 100 during business

## **Decompression 2006**

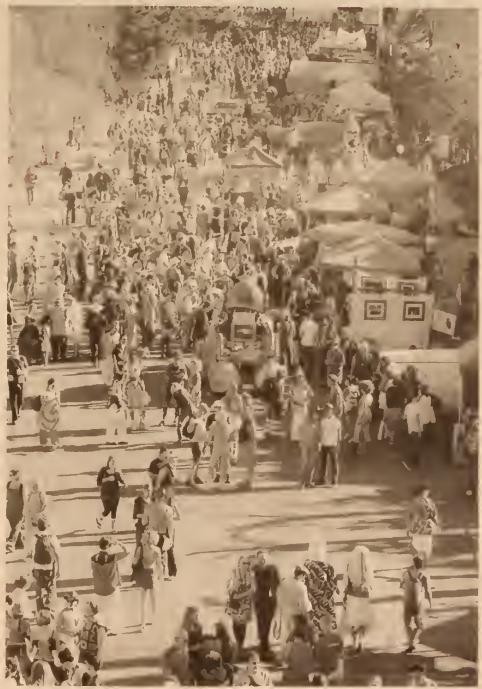


Photo by Paula Eve Aspin

If you heard the music drifting from Dogpatch over the roar of the Blue Angels and saw fairy-winged, face-painted, fuzzy costumed folks walking around the neighborhood, then you might have guessed that a little bit of Burning Man had come to town. The 7th annual Burning Man Decompression 2006 HEAT THE STREET FaIRE! was a vibrant event held on October 8th on Indiana Street. The 20th Street bridge provided a great view of the action. Bands, DJ's, art, and street-side entertainment stretched four blocks, and Esprit Park provided a great space for picnics and lounging in the afternoon sun—a little piece of the playa right here in our own community.





# Elementary School's Governing Body UnderStaffed teachers. As directed by law, Madasked if any of the teachers w

By Melissa Glorieux

A Daniel Webster Elementary teacher was let go last month due to under-enrollment at the school. A smaller than anticipated student body of 224 resulted in a reduction of the school's budget, forcing the new principal, along with an incomplete outdated school site council (SSC), to cope with the shortfall.

California state law mandates that San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) adjust each school's budget once the year's enrollment is determined, a process called the 10-day count. However, what cuts (or additions) to make at each school are typically decided by a vote of the school's SSC. Daniel Webster's SSC is currently short-handed and out-of-date.

When the school's 10-day count enrollment fell short by 35 students, decision-makers had two options: eliminate one teaching position or cut paraprofessional support, such as classroom aides and a literacy specialist.

After the teaching staff voiced its preference to cut support, Daniel Webster's new principal Moraima Machado met with the school's partial SSC twice. In the second meeting, the SSC voted to eliminate a teaching position. In addition to the SSC's vote, Machado telephoned parents from the previous year's committee to get parental input.

Following the SSC vote, Machado called an emergency meeting of

(415) 282-6293

2955 3rd street

teachers. As directed by law, Machado asked if any of the teachers would leave voluntarily. Noreen Abulencia, the teacher with the smallest class, volunteered. Most classes at Daniel Webster consist of fewer than 22 students. Abulencia's class had only 10.

In September Eric Hall, of United Educators of San Francisco, a labor union that represents teachers, aides and other who work for the SFUSD, called on Potrero Hill community members to join the SSC. Hall noted the neighborhood's passionate appeal last year to keep Daniel Webster open when it was in danger of being shut-down. Inside sources believe Daniel Webster is on the chopping block again. Hall hopes Potrero Hill residents will be moved to act if the school is again threatened with closure.

Daniel Webster's SSC has several vacant seats. A complete SSC consists of the school principal, teachers, noncertificated school employees, parents and community members. This year's vacancies have been caused by teachers from the 2005-2006 council leaving the school, parents who were part of the council no longer having children at the school, and a lack of community members.

Each public school is required by state law to have an SSC, but how council members are chosen is not specified. A Guide and Template for the Single Plan for Student Achievement: A Handbook for School Site Councils notes that council members must be chosen by peers, Continued on page 18

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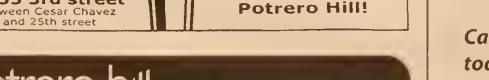
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## **Potrero Hill Festival 2006**



The Novak family enjoying the pancake breakfast. Photo by Paula Eve Aspin.



Police officers Dan Laval, Scott Hurley, and Mark Madsen read the View at the Potrero Hill Festival. Photo by Paula Eve Aspin.



Barbecue extraordinaires Jeff Schimmel and Daemon Morrison of Thinkers Cafe pause for a photo at the Potrero Hill Festival. Photo by Paula Eve Aspin.



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Who says there's no more hippies? Photo by Paula Eve Aspin.



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To all who helped make our F.U.N.draiser such a success at The Potrero Hill Festival. We served over 200 plates of BBQ brisket, raising over \$1000.00 for Families United in Neighborhoods (F.U.N.), the after-school program at The Neighborhood House.

Providing dinner for area children to enjoy together is one of the many enriching aspects of this program. The money raised will provide The Neighborhood House with the necessary food service equipment needed to provide these meals.

Moreover, the good people at Economy Restaurant Fixtures, 1200 7th Street, are going to make sure that each dollar goes as far as possible by pricing the equipment at or below cost.

Thank you again for helping us help the kids in our community! If you would like more information on F.U.N., or would like to donate supplies, please contact Sharon Johnson, F.U.N.Program Director, at 826-8080.

**NOVEMBER 2006** 



## **NOVEMBER ARTS &** ENTERTAINMENT



#### November 3-11

#### Film: American Indian Film Festival

The 31st Annual American Indian Film Festival kicks-off the week of November 3 at the Lumiere Theatre, 1572 California Street, and on November 9 moves to the Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon Street. Go to www.aifisf.com for schedule of films.

#### November 4

#### Dance Party: Pip Squeak A Go Go

San Francisco's premier '60s-style go go dance group brings you their very first dance party for the not-yet-legal set. Inspired by the '60s television show "Kiddie A Go Go," the Devil-Ettes encourage kids to dress up and boogie down. Prizes will be awarded for best dressed/best dancers, and local DJ Brother Grimm will spin records all afternoon. There'll also be live music, dance performances (G-rated, of course), shopping ops, and more. Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell Street. (415) 861.2011. Advance tix available online at www.rickshawstop.com.

#### Music: Voice Studio Showcase

Voice Studio students showcase their new vocal talents at Farley's, 4 p.m.

#### November 7

#### Community: Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Community Plan

Support District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell's resolution to establish guiding policy priorities around the creation of affordable housing, business protection and neighborhood character in and around Potrero Hill. San Francisco Board of Supervisors, City Hall. Contact Supervisor Maxwell's Office for more information at (415) 554-7670.

#### November 9

#### Music: Goldies 2006

The Guardian throws a party for the winners of the 2006 Outstanding Local Discovery Awards. Hey Willpower, Funkanometry SF, DJ Off Nosfam and Passage are all scheduled to appear. 111 Minna Gallery at 10:30 p.m. Free.

#### November 10

Music: Little Roger & the Goosebumps Still trembling from Halloween? For more Goosebumps, check out this live act at Farley's, 8 p.m.

#### November 11

#### Music: Wolf Eyes

Don't forget some sort of protective ear gear for this one: as leaders of the noise rock insurgence, Wolf Eyes specialize in Satanic sounds that drill through your skull and rattle around for all eternity. Bottom of the Hill, www.bottomofthehill.com.

#### Art: Détourned Menu: Food in the Form of Activism

Food for thought-literally. This exhibition explores such burning

questions as: how does a biotech fetishistic organic farm relate to vanitas images of a 17th century Dutch still life? And can you make a decent curry with the delicacies found in garbage bins? Artists ask these questions with edible provocations and savory interventions. Curated by Brianna Toth. Wednesdays to Saturdays, 1 6 p.m. The LAB, 2948 16th at Capp Street. Free. (Ends November 11th.)

#### November 11 and 12

#### Art: Scala Media An Interactive Sonic **Environment**

Four wooden vessels in a semi-circular arrangement are filled with water. A speaker embedded within the base of each form releases sound when the liquid is touched. The sounds blossom and become more complex as multiple nodes are activated; the more people that interact with the piece, the richer the aural experience becomes. Sound neat? Check it out at the Exploratorium. For more details: http://www.exploratorium.edu/pr/ documents/06-11Scala.html

#### November 12

#### Music: Darket

The Sunday afternoon concert series continues with Darket, Farley's, 3 p.m..

#### November 16

#### Art: Silkscreen Postermaking

Silkscreen Postermaking is a monthlong workshop, held on Thursdays and Saturdays, that teaches how to use the mass media for activist organizing. Sponsored by the SF Print Collective, the Women's Building and Balazo Gallery, this class will cover the basics of guerrilla art, media work, graphic design, wheatpasting and legal defense. For more information e.mail sfprintcollective@gmail.com, or call (415) 821-7282.

#### Community: UCSF's Rennovation of 654 Minnesota Street

UCSF proposes to develop a 65,000 sq. ft. building in Dogpatch into administrative offices and datacenter uses. Hear about the project, and comment on Draft Environmental Impact Report findings of "no significant impacts." The Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration is available online at http://campusplanning.ucsf.edu. 7:00 p.m., UCSF Mission Bay Campus, Genentech Hall Auditorium, 600 16th Street.

#### November 18

#### Community: Esprit Park Beautification

Help replace dead bushes, plant new vegetation, and generally spruce-up Esprit Park under the direction of a San Francisco Park and Recreation gardener. All materials supplied but bring your own gloves. Pizza and beverages at noon. 9 a.m.- noon, Minnesota Street between 19th and

## The Wattis: 'The Best Place to See the Future

## of Art'

By Paula Eve Aspin

The epicenter of uber-new art in the Bay Area is a stone's throw away from us, but you may not have heard of it let alone visited. Located in the California College of Arts, the CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts was established in 1998 and serves as a forum for the presentation of leading edge local, national and international contemporary culture.

The arrival of the new director on November 1, Jens Hoffman from London's Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), is an indication on how important this gallery is on the global art scene. At ICA, one of London's top showplaces for emerging art, Hoffman provided stimulating and inspired programming. Expect to experience the same round-up of leading-edge art at the Wattis.

Interesting to note, as Hoffman arrives from London the previous Wattis director Ralph Rugoff has gone to London to run the Hayward Gallery another of London's noted contemporary art museums. There appears to be a cross-cultural exchange program going on between San Francisco and London and we are the beneficiaries.

Start getting to know the gallery by visiting the new exhibition opening November 28 - Radical



The CCA Wattis Institute's new director, Jens Hoffman. Photo courtesy of the Wattis Institute

Software: 'Art, Technology and the Bay Area Underground'. Curated by Will Bradley, employing film, video, artworks and artifacts it traces the cultural discourse of the hacker. At the first Hackers' Conference in 1984, founder of the Whole Earth Catalogue Stewart Brand spouted the now famous quote, "Information wants to be free." This exhibition provides visual documents that trace the counter cultural discourse that made Brand's assertion reality.

**Wattis Institute** 1111 Eighth Street (415) 551-9210 www.wattis.org

#### November 23

#### Holiday: Happy Thanksgiving!

Get a jolt of caffeine before the inevitable food coma that will end your day. Farley's will be open today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m..

#### November 25

#### Music: Jeff Mills

So you overdid it at your Thanksgiving feast and haven't gotten off your couch in two days -- now's your chance to burn it off. Techno kingpin Jeff Mills makes what surely cannot be (but is) his first-ever San Francisco appearance, bringing his punishingbut-propelling beats to the foot of our hill. Capacity will be strictly limited, so purchasing tickets in advance is probably a good idea: www.blasthaus.com. Mighty, 119 Utah Street.

#### November 30

#### Art: Take Down the Show

Reception to pick-up your pet and kid photos from the 16th Annual

Pet Fest. Photos given away free of charge, compliments of photographer Christopher Irion. Farley's, 7 p.m.

#### December 5

#### Community: Showplace & Potrero Hill Community Workshop

Join the San Francisco Planning Department to discuss policies that will form the basis of the Showplace-Potrero Area Plan. For more information, please visit www. sfgov.org/site/planning or contact Johnny Jaramillo at (415) 575-6818 or johnny.jaramillo@sfgov.org. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (953 De Haro) 6-8:30 p.m. Free.

Got an event you want listed in a future Potrero View edition? Send details to office@potreroview.net.

Deadline: no later than the 15th of the month before.

## Potrero Home to Cutting Edge Veterinary Medicine

By Virgina Donohue

Humans aren't the only animals that are increasingly turning to "alternative" medicine to cure what ails them. Dogs and cats suffering from a variety of ills are finding their way to San Francisco Veterinary Specialists, 600 Alabama Street, which specializes in holistic medicine for animals.

Veterinary Specialist Dr. David Fong, who holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Colorado State University, is also licensed in human and animal acupuncture, is a diplomate in traditional Chinese medicine and has training in chiropractic care as well. He's been in veterinary medicine for 30 years, but 15 years ago entered the holistic field.

"I had severe arthritis. I had to walk with a cane for a while, I couldn't turn doorknobs so I took the western medicine but I was getting a lot of side effects, double vision, things like that. So I thought I'd go with more of a holistic approach," Fong says. "I went on a strict diet, I didn't eat anything out of a can, I ate just raw foods, I cut out all red meat, I didn't drink, I was a pretty boring person actually. Within about six to eight months I was able to play golf, lift weights, so that turned me to looking at other things." Since he was practicing holistic medicine on himself, he decided to study how to

apply it to his animal patients.

Fong's colleague, Ella Woods, tells a similar tale of personal epiphany. She had a cat with chronic irritable bowel syndrome. Woods had tried western treatments, but after three months the cat still had nearly constant diarrhea. "As a last ditch effort I tried acupuncture with [Dr.] Lisa Pesch and the results were so dramatic. I never had an open mind about acupuncture, really. I had coworkers who suggested it for shoulder problems, but there wasn't the data there in my opinion."

But her cat changed her mind. "It's not always this dramatic, but in her case one treatment stopped the diarrhea. It took about four months to get her completely balanced, but there's no way one could argue a placebo effect. In her case it's really stunning. And, so I ended up leaving the biotech world and studying acupuncture in humans but all along I had planned to work with animals."

Many of the practice's clients, who include animals suffering from cancer, arrive with a similar sense of desperation. "Most of the time we can help to mitigate the side effects of some western drugs that are critical for survival," says Woods, who has found the combination of chemotherapy and a holistic approach very effective. "We can mitigate all the nausea and vomiting. In my



DNA Hilterman, nine years old, is being treated by Woods with acupuncture and herbs to relieve limping. Photo by Raven Castillo, veterinary nurse at SF Veterinary Specialists.

fondest dreams, animal owners will be seeing some signs of imbalance early in the animal's life and seeking holistic treatment first rather than as a last resort...today it's still way too often used as a last resort," says Woods.

It's easy to obtain holistic care at San Francisco Veterinary Specialists. While patients typically need a referral from another veterinarian to make an appointment, the practice's holistic services are open to all. Dogs and cats are assessed by Fong and then seen by Woods or one of the other practitioners depending on their specific case.

"Any of my new patients are going to see Dr. Fong first because we want to make sure that there isn't something scrious or acute going on that really does need western intervention. We want to bring that kind of safety to the patient and the client," says Woods.

Fong wants clients and other veterinarians to have an open mind about Chinese medicine. "It's hard

Continued on page 22



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## Food with a View: Where to Eat When You're PMS

8y Debbie Findling

Once a month I get a hormoneinduced craving for cinnamonfrosted Pop-Tarts, and I'm not alone. More than 80 percent of women experience food cravings around the time of menstruation due to increased hormone levels. These charged-up hormones can only be diffused in one of three ways, eating: 1) salty snacks, like French fries and potato chips, 2) sweets of any kind, but especially chocolate, or 3) carbohydrate rich or high-fat foods, like cheese, pasta and bread. If you (or someone you love) is craving salty, sweet, carbs or all of the above, satiate your hormonal beast at one of the following places around the Hill:

#### SALTY

The best way to enjoy French fries is not by renaming them "Freedom fries." Call them what the French do - frites - and eat them the Continental way: with lots of salt, herbs and aioli – a garlic mayonnaise-style Continued on page 18

Atlas Café - 3049 20th Street at Alabama, 415.648.1047, www.atlascafe.net

Ganim's Market and Deli -1135 18th Street at Mississippi, 415.282.9289

Maverick - 3316 17th Street at Mission, 415.863.3061, www.maverick.com

Petite Patisserie - 1415 18th Street at Connecticut, 415.821.378. www.petitepatisserie.com

Slow Club – 2501 Mariposa Street at Hampshire, 415.241.9390, www.slowclub.com

T.G.I. Friday's - 1250 Grundy Lane, San Bruno, 650.952.8443, www.tgifridays.com

Universal Café - 2814 19th Street at Bryant, 415.821.4608, www.universalcafe.net



Hazel's Kitchen is no longer the smallest sandwich shop on the Hill, as it expanded last month into an adjacent space. Photo by Paula Eve Aspin.

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# California Energy Commission Approves Power Plant in Dogpatch

Energy Commission gave final approval to the City and County of San Francisco's Application for Certification of the San Francisco Electric Reliability Project, known in southeast San Francisco as the "Peaker Plant" Project. The approval capped off a two-and-a-half year effort to secure licensing for a 145megawatt, gas fired power facility. Several Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero residents attended the meeting, some speaking in favor of the project, while others opposed it. All community members at the meeting expressed their support for reducing air pollution in the area.

The "Peaker Plants" will be located on a four-acre parcel just east of the new Muni Metro East car barn. Each of the three natural gaspowered turbines would be licensed to operate up to 4,000 hours per year. Under an Action Plan approved in 2004 by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the agency responsible for managing power distribution in the state, once the peaker plants and an additional unit at the San Francisco Airport are

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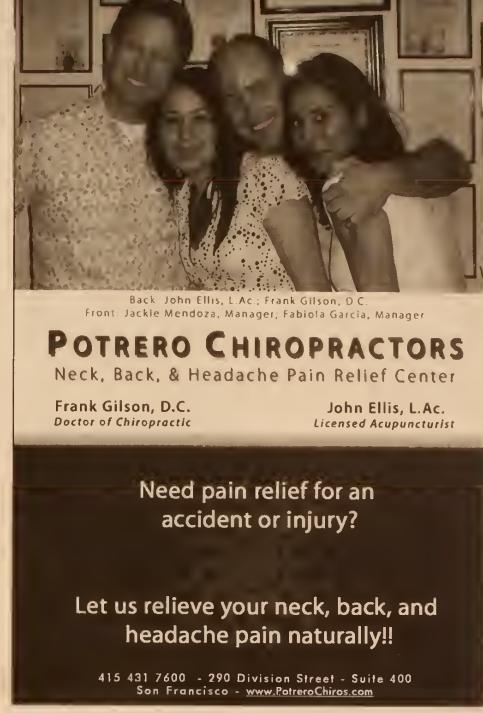
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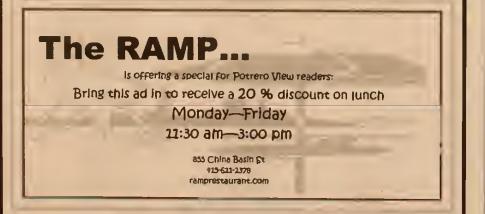
Last month the California operational, CAISO will withdraw the Reliability-Must-Run contract from Mirant Corporation's Potrero Power Plant. It's hoped that this, in turn, will spell the end of the last remaining old power plant in San Francisco as the aker Plant" Project. The approval ped off a two-and-a-half year operational, CAISO will withdraw the Reliability-Must-Run contract from Mirant Corporation's Potrero Power Plant. It's hoped that this, in turn, will spell the end of the last remaining old power plant in San Francisco's southeast, since it will no longer be needed to ensure electric reliability in the City.

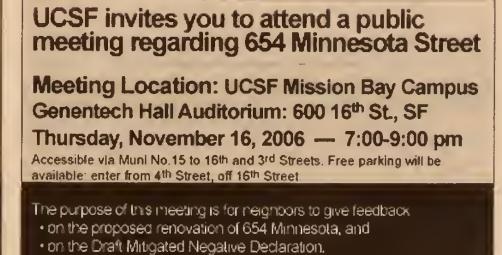
"This is a great day for San Francisco and particularly for the residents of the Southeast sector," said Susan Leal, General Manager of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. "We're looking forward to the day when the old Potrero Power Plant will cease operations and no longer pollute the Dogpatch/Potrero Hill and Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhoods."

Now that the CEC has approved the project, San Francisco Public Utility Commission staff will work to retain a contractor to design and build both power plants. In addition, financing arrangements need to be completed, and the remaining permits and approvals need to be secured before construction can begin. The power plants could begin operating by the end of 2008.









UCSF proposes to occupy the 65 000 sq. ft. building with administrative office and data center uses. Under CEQA (the California Environmental Quality Act) the Initial Study finds that after mitigation, no significant, impacts would occur with the project. Thus a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been drafted.

The Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available online at http://campuspitanning.ucsf.edu.beginning.November 3, 2006.
You can obtain a paper or CD copy by calling 415/476 2911.
To give written feedback on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, write to Michelle Schaefer UCSF Campus Planning. Box 0286. SF. CA 94143-0286 or email her at EIR@planning.ucsf.edu.by.December 7, 2006.

UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation, please call UCSF's office of Community and Governmental Relations at 415/476-3206 with your suggested accommodation.



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## **Police Blotter**

A selection of reported policing incidents on the Hill

WEDNESDAY 10/10/2006, 8 a.m., 25<sup>th</sup> and Connecticut streets, Cocaine

Officers from the Housing Unit, whose patrol includes Potrero Hill's public housing, routinely take investigative steps to prevent the use and sale of dangerous narcotics. During a random license plate check, a blue van in the area of 25th and Connecticut streets was found to be displaying a sticker on the plate that did not match the information received from the computer check. The van was pulled over for investigation. It was found that the driver was not in possession nor had ever been issued a driver's license. Under California state law, driving without ever having been issued a license or driving on a suspended license is a misdemeanor. When a driver is found who has never been issued a license, or is driving with a revoked license, police officers are required to arrest the driver and impound the vehicle for at least 30 days. But the SFPD recognizes that non-violent misdemeanor arrests are best resolved by issuing a ticket summoning the suspect to court for the offense at a later date, as opposed to being taken to jail on the spot. The officer placed the suspect under arrest and prepared to ticket the offender and tow the van. However, while conducting an inventory of the van's items, the officer found narcotics. The drugs were confiscated, the van was towed and the driver was booked at the Bayview Station.

THURSDAY 10/11/2006, 8:40 a.m., 1100 block of 18th Street, Grand Theft.

A Potrero Hill man was disturbed on a sunny weekday morning while working on his laptop on his front porch. As the man was taking his computer back into the house he felt someone slip the computer out from under his arm. When he turned around he saw approximately three youths running down 18th Street towards Third Street with his laptop. Determined not to let them get away, the victim jumped into his car and began following the thieves. He also called the police, reported the incident and informed officers that the suspects had gotten onto a MUNI bus on Third Street. Two officers stopped the bus and saw a man

attempting to conceal a computer under his bus seat. They detained the man while the officers met with the victim who agreed to do a "cold show." He was able to identify the man, who had attempted to conceal the laptop, and another man who had been sitting next to him on the bus as two of the men who had committed the crime. The victim was unable to identify a third man who had also been sitting with them. The two identified men were booked at Bayview Station for grand theft and conspiracy and the victim's laptop was returned to him

MONDAY, October 16, 2006, 12:29 a.m., Possession of Narcotics, Potrero Hill Housing Projects.

While patrolling the area three officers temporarily assigned to the Bayview District as part of an ongoing effort to curb crime, observed a minor traffic violation. The vehicle was stopped. In plain view the officers observed numerous medicine bottles and the type of plastic bags that are regularly used to package narcotics. Closer examination revealed that the bags contained cocaine and methamphetamine residue. A search of the driver revealed that the he was in possession of additional narcotics. The driver was transported to Bayview Station. A further search revealed that he had heroin hidden in his sock that was packaged for street sales. The man also possessed crack cocaine that was secreted in his clothing. He was booked for numerous narcotics charges.

MONDAY, October 16, 2006, 7:05 p.m. Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person, Potrero Hill Housing.

While responding to an outbreak of violence in the Potrero Hill Housing area, two officers from the Bayview police unit spotted a recognized gang member known to be on probation driving in the Potrero Hill Housing neighborhood. The officers were aware that the gang member's usual patch was the Third Street Corridor and were highly suspicious of his presence on the Hill. They pulled him over and investigated. The car contained a loaded rifle. The two occupants were booked on numerous felony weapons charges.

# School's Governing Body Under-Staffed

Continued from page 11

whether by ballot vote or by voice vote during an open meeting. The handbook encourages community members to participate, providing continuity to SSCs, since parents leave the council as their children graduate.

Hall notes that Daniel Webster may have deserved a higher budget

allocation. Students whose first language is not English or who come from poorer backgrounds entitle their schools to a larger budget allocation per student. Schools deserving of a higher allocation don't always receive it since parents make the determination and many not wish to label themselves as poor or Englishlearning, Hall explained.

# Food with a View: Where to Eat When You're PMS

Continued from page 15

dip. Universal Café's menu changes daily, but frites with herbs and aioli appear regularly. Another good source for salt cravings on the Hill is Ganim's Market and Deli, locally owned since 1975.

#### SWEET

At Slow Club you'll find scrumptious fare for your PMS sweet tooth, including chocolate pot de crème, dark chocolate mousse cake and warm apple crisp. Petite Patisserie, an organic bakery owned by two sisters, just opened on the Hill. They use locally grown ingredients, so their pastry menu changes depending on what's in season.

#### **CARBS**

Although the entrées are quite good at Maverick in the Mission

District, the best way to cure my PMS-induced cravings is by ordering two sides of their macaroni and cheese. Although I haven't tried it yet, T.G.I. Friday's (yes, I really am referring to that mediocre restaurant chain) has deep-fried macaroni and cheese balls. Unfortunately, the closest Friday's to the Hill is in San Bruno, but nothing is too far away to satisfy a haywire hormone-induced mac and cheese craving. If a View reader is hungry enough to drive to San Bruno, let us know if it's worth the trip. For a healthier alternative that will still assuage your PMS craving, try the grilled apples and cheddar sandwich at Atlas Café.

What do you crave and where do you satiate it on the Hill? Email us at editor@potreroview.net.







## Today's Real Estate in San Francisco

by Angela Rubin & Marianne Schier



#### HOW TO BUY BEFORE YOU SELL

Most of us need at least some of the proceeds from the sale of our current home to use as a down payment on our next home. For that reason, we find ourselves in a quandary, feeling that we can't make an offer on our next home until our current home has sold, but we can't sell our home until we've found our next home and made an accepted offer. This needn't be a quandary, though.

In a great many cases, it's possible to take out a home equity line of credit (HELOC) secured by the equity we have in our current home. We can then borrow the needed money for the down payment in order to complete the purchase of our next home. In the meantime, we can market our current home aggressively with the assistance of our real estate advisor and when it sells, we can pay off the line of credit. In the process, we will have paid very little interest on the money we needed for our down payment.

The only danger, of course, arises if our exiting home doesn't sell rather quickly. We won't want to continue making the monthly payment on that home's loan balance for long. As your trusted real estate advisors we can help you determine the level of risk here. Thanks to the HELOC, transitional financing has become easy and inexpensive to arrange. It could make it possible for you to buy your dream home before someone else does! Need more information? Just call Angela or Marianne at 447-6210 or 345-3169.

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## A View from the Past

By Abigail Johnston, The Potrero Archives Project



Photo from the Potrero Hill Archives Project. Courtesy of Lucy De Rosa Ceccarelli.

In 1940, the splendid Golden Gate International Exposition re-opened on the newly created Treasure Island. It was hoped that the Exposition, which had been retooled after a poor opening the previous year, would provide an antidote to the miseries of the times – which included the Great Depression, labor strife, and ominous rumblings of another world war–and provide jobs to a needy economy. As part of the Exposition's marketing City officials encouraged merchants to transform San Francisco itself into a Gold Rushera theme park. On Potrero Hill, Mario and Joe De Rosa created this wild and woolly facade for their 20th and Wisconsin streets store (today occupied by the Michael-Gary hair salon). In the photograph, the two men in the middle are (left to right) Frank Busalacchi and Arthur Civello (a De Rosa cousin). The two other men are unidentified.



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# First Phase of UCSF Mission Bay Campus Construction Complete

Continued from page 4

frankly, makes us nervous. As does UCSF's interest in the old Copenhagen Furniture building at Tennessee and 18th streets." Eslick is quick to add that UCSF representatives always attend Dogpatch neighborhood meetings, and that the university is usually forthcoming with its plans. "But we're all familiar with UCSF's campus on Parnassus," says Eslick. "It's a behemoth, and we're just a bit wary of a similar situation at Mission Bay. It's a David and Goliath situation."

Those wishing to take a free tour of Mission Bay can do so every Wednesday starting in the lobby of the Mission Bay Community Center; tours last approximately 45 minutes. Reservations are required a week in advance and can be made through the Mission Bay website at <a href="http://pub.ucsf.edu/missionbay/">http://pub.ucsf.edu/missionbay/</a> or by contacting the Community and Government Relations office at (415) 476-4357.

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December 16
Noon - 4 p.m.



Join us for live jazz, hula dancing, your favorite deli foods, and a community portrait display.

To find out more details about these events and to receive email updates on our future plans please go to our website

www.kleinsdeli.com



If you are considering a home purchase or thinking about selling your home, call Mary Lace, Potrero Hill Specialist, to discuss your real estate needs.

Visit Mary's website at <a href="www.marylace.com">www.marylace.com</a> for more real estate information.



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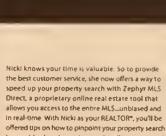








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## **Cutting Edge Veterinary** Medicine

Continued from page 14

to educate what energy is all about cause our society does not look at energy," says Fong. "A lot of times they don't understand chi or stagnant chi because they can't see it or they can't feel it or they can't smell it or touch it. But I say, 'Do you understand about gravity?' and they say 'Yeah.' Well you can't see it or touch it but you believe that it's there...Acupuncture energy is there, it moves in its subtle ways to put us in balance. We don't do hocus pocus or voodoo or different chants

or anything like that. That's kind of the connotation that I think western people put on these things."

Fong says his services are often covered by pet insurance. He's uncomfortable trying to compare costs with traditional western medicine, indicating that the treatments can be more expensive but the diagnostic costs are often lower. Woods also points out that in the case of surgery a holistic approach can significantly improve outcomes. "If you're spending \$6,000 on surgery, it's probably not a bad idea to spend another \$500 to 700 to make the recovery faster and more complete,"



Happy Birthday

Happy November Birthday! HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY: Adolph Sax (inventor of saxaphone, 1814), Susan B. Anthony arrested for registering to vote (1872), Anchor's "Earthquake Beer" bottled (with upside-down labels, 1989), Mike Bailey, Jerry Barrish, Betty Bolton, Barbara Boxer, Mindy Brickhandler, Bradley Burke, Bay Bridge opens (1936), Rose Cassano, Maya Charbonneau, Skip Charbonneau, Cliche Day (3rd -"Give it a shot!"), Dia de los Muertos originated in Mexico 3000 years ago - known as Day of the Dead in U.S. since 1970s (2nd), Joe Di Maggio (1914), Diabetes

Awareness Month, Election Day - VOTE (7th), Steve Fotter, First recorded strike took place in Egypt (pyramids) in 1170 B.C., Sandra Gershater, "Hair" -1st nude rock musical (NYC 1967), Georgia Heise, Jimi Hendrix (1942), Tim Hostetler, Edie Irons, 48 Indians from 20 Tribes seize Alcatraz (1969), Jews expelled from colleges in Germany (1938), Lou Katz, Steve Kaufman, Marylouise Lovett, Doug McKechnie, Debbie McNeil, David Meblin, Rene Magritte (1898), Mexican Revolution Day (20th), Mickey Mouse (1928), Negro History Week (1926), Nurenberg War Crimes Trial (1945), Risa Nye, Peanut Butter Lovers Month, Pushbutton phone (1963), Kaya Rader, Margaret Rice, Cornel Robinson, Greg Savilla, Mario Siguenza, Niki de Saint Phalle (1930), Charles Schultz (1922), Beverly Spurgeon, Stay Home Because You're Well Day (25th), Thanksgiving Day (23rd), Mark Twain (1835), 250,000 march on Washington to protest Vietnam War (1969), Carol Rae Watanabe, Roy Wyngate, Molly Wood, Julia Ziev, Lester Zeidman.

-Denise Kessler

## Obituary

Ann June Slepnikoff passed away peacefully at her home on De Haro Street on September 3, 2006. Beloved wife of the late William Frederick Slepnikoff; loving mother of Darla Hammond, Lori Dyer, and William Slepnikoff, Jr.; cherished grandmother of Debbie, David, Sean, and Nicholas; also survived by her dear sister, Rose Escott. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Hospice by the Bay, 1540 Market Street, Suite 350, San Francisco 94102.





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